

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PANEL A

IN RE: MELYNDA GIBSON PEARSON Arkansas Bar ID #95076 CPC Docket No. 2019-021

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct against Melynda Gibson Pearson upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from information brought to the attention of the Office of Professional Conduct. Pearson is an attorney practicing primarily in Texarkana, Texas. Pearson was served with the Formal Complaint and failed to respond to the Complaint.

Per requirements in Rule VII(C) of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, if an Arkansas attorney does not pay the annual license fee by April 15, an automatic suspension results. For attorneys who failed to timely pay their 2019 license fees, the automatic suspension was effective April 16, 2019. The Supreme Court of Arkansas issued a Per Curiam dated April 25, 2019, listing the attorneys who were suspended due to failure to pay 2019 license fees. Pearson was listed as suspended on page 7 of the Per Curiam.

On May 3, 2019, Pearson filed an answer on behalf of Juan Moreno in Hempstead County DR-2011-297. This filing took place after Pearson was suspended, and that suspension remains in place.

Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response to it, and other matters before it, and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel A of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds: 1. Pearson violated Arkansas Rule 3.4(c) when after being automatically suspended from the practice of law for failure to pay license fee, Pearson continued to engage in the practice of law while suspended.

2. Pearson violated Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) by continuing to practice law after being automatically suspended on April 16, 2019.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel A, that Melynda Gibson Pearson, Arkansas Bar ID# 95076 be, and hereby is, **CAUTIONED** for her conduct in this matter. In assessing a sanction, the attorney's prior disciplinary record was a factor.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL A T. Benton Smith, Jr., Chair, Pag A Dates